PRESS RELEASE Erik C. Peterson United States Attorney Western District of Wisconsin (608) 264-5158 TTY (608) 264-5006 www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

Contact Person

May 24, 2007

Robert A. Anderson Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jose D. Chavez, DOB: 8/14/1976, and Agustin Panaigua-Verdugo, DOB: 11/25/1978, both of Miland, Wisconsin, were sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb. Panaigua-Verdugo was sentenced to 70 months in prison, to be followed by a five-year period of supervised release. Chavez was sentenced to 108 months in prison and a five-year period of supervised release.

In November, Chavez and Panaigua-Verdugo were charged in a multi-count indictment with distributing methamphetamine to an undercover officer in Marathon County from April through November 14, 2006. They pleaded guilty in February and they were both sentenced based upon their total distribution of more than a pound of methamphetamine.

The charges against Chavez and Panaigua-Verdugo were the result of an investigation conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Marathon County Sheriff's Department, the Wausau Police Department, and the Wisconsin State

Patrol. The prosecution of this case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

####